

US-PAT-NO: 6178167

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6178167 B1

TITLE: Customer telecommunication interface device having a unique identifier

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Stated in other words, one of the features that may be included in the disclosed apparatus is a downloading feature. This feature places a call to a designated number and downloads data into memory 320 (e.g., in FIG. 6, or the NVRAM portion of memory 440 in FIG. 7). The manner by which microprocessor 300 interacts with the designated number and downloads the data is quite simple, since the only difference between downloading a program and receiving data that is sent to port 400 (in FIG. 6) is that the destination of the data is changed; that is, the signal is captured by processor 300 via line 303. The concept of downloading features and capabilities is disclosed in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/341,805, filed for B. Waring Partridge on Nov. 18, 1994. Alternatively, of course, a CDROM or floppy disk reader can be coupled to controller 300 (employing well-known approaches for coupling a reader to a computer) and features can be installed through such a reader

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INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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APPL-NO: 08/ 627661

DATE FILED: April 4, 1996

PARENT-CASE:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS Related subject
matter is disclosed in
the following applications filed concurrently herewith and
assigned to the same
Assignee thereof: U.S. patent application Ser. No.
08/627,657, entitled "A
Customer Telecommunication Interface Device With Built-In
Network Features, now
U.S. Pat. No. 5,926,464;" U.S. patent application Ser.
No. 08/627,659,
entitled "Packet Telephone System, now pending;" U.S.
patent application Ser.
No. 08/627,660, entitled "Method And Apparatus For
Automated Provisioning And
Billing Of Communication Services, now U.S. Pat. No.
5,835,580;" and U.S.